

What is claimed is:

1. A flashlight comprising:

a front housing section;

a rear housing section attached to the front housing section via screw

5 threads;

a light source supported on one of the front and rear housing sections;

a current controller;

a first switch connectable to a power source and electrically linked at
least indirectly to the light source; and

10 a second switch for switching the current controller into and out of
circuitry providing electrical power to the light source.

2. The flashlight of claim 1 wherein the second switch comprises a push
button on the rear housing.

3. The flashlight of claim 2 further including an end cap on the rear
15 housing section, and wherein the push button comprises a shoulder engageable with a
groove in the end cap, for holding the second switch in a closed position.

4. The flashlight of claim 1 further comprising a circuitry module
including a timer circuit for automatically turning off power to the LED after a

selected time interval, when the current controller is switched out by the second switch.

5. The flashlight of claim 1 wherein the second switch provides full power to the light source when the second switch is closed, regardless of the position of the first switch.

6. The flashlight of claim 2 wherein the push button is spring biased into an open position.

7. A flashlight comprising:

a front housing section;

10 a rear housing section attached to the front housing section via screw threads;

a switch actuated by turning the front housing section relative to the rear housing section;

a light source supported on one of the front and rear housing sections;

15 a circuitry module including a dimmer; and

a knob on the rear housing section linked to the dimmer, for controlling brightness of the light source via the dimmer.

8. The flashlight of claim 7 wherein electrical connections are made through wires, and no electrical connections are made through the front or rear housings.

9. The flashlight of claim 7 further comprising an end cap engaged to screw threads on the rear housing, with the end cap sealed against the knob and also rotatable relative to the knob, to change batteries.

10. The flashlight of claim 9 wherein the knob is held against rotation by anti-rotation means in the rear housing.

11. A flashlight comprising:

10 a machined metal housing for holding one or more batteries

battery contacts in the housing for making electrical contact with batteries contained within the housing;

a light source adjacent a first end of the housing;

a switch; and with the battery contacts and the switch and the light source connected via wires and with no electrical connections made via conduction through the housing.

12. A flashlight comprising:

a housing having a front end and a back end;

a light source adjacent to the front end of the housing;

an end cap attached at the back end via screw threads;

a push button within the end cap;

5 a switch adjacent to the back end and actuated via movement of the push
button;

a seal between the push button and the end cap, with the end cap
rotatable about the push button, while the push button remains largely stationary, to
unscrew the end cap from the back end of the housing, to replace batteries.

10 13. The flashlight of claim 12 further comprising a second seal between the
end cap and the housing.

14. The flashlight of claim 12 further including an anti-rotation element on
the switch, to prevent the switch from rotating as the end cap is removed from the
housing.

15 15. The flashlight of claim 12 further including a shoulder on the push
button engageable into a groove on an inside surface of the end cap, for holding the
push button in a first position against a spring force.

16. A flashlight comprising:

a housing having a front end and a back end;

a light source adjacent to the front end;

an end cap attached at the back end via screw threads;

5 a finger knob within the end cap;

a variable resistor adjacent to the back end of the housing and acutated
via turning movement of the finger knob, and with the variable resistor electrically
linked at least indirectly to the light source;

a seal between the finger knob and the end cap, with the end cap
10 rotatable about the finger knob, while the finger knob remains largely stationery, to
unscrew the end cap from the back end of the housing, to replace batteries.

17. A flashlight comprising:

a housing;

a light emitting element adjacent to a first end of the housing;

15 a first lens adjacent to the light emitting element; and

a second lens adjacent to the first lens.

18. The flashlight of claim 17 with the second lens supported on an accessory attachable onto an outside surface of the housing.

19. The flashlight of claim 17 with the first lens and the second lens supported on a front end cap attached to the first end of the housing.

5 20. The flashlight of claim 19 further comprising a second lens adjustment on the front end cap, to allow adjustment of a spacing between the first lens and the second lens.